

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-6 and ADD new claims 8 and 9, in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fusing device for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the device comprising:

a fusing roller apparatus with a ~~an outer-rubber~~ fusing roller having a protective outer layer;

a heating pipe disposed in the center of the fusing roller apparatus;

a heating element disposed on the outer surface of the heating pipe; and

a pressing roller which closely adheres paper passing between the pressing roller and the rubber fusing roller to the rubber fusing roller.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 1, wherein the rubber fusing roller is of a predetermined thickness so as to form a fusing nip with the pressing roller, wherein the fusing nip is of a predetermined width.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 2, wherein the rubber fusing roller is formed of silicon.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 2, wherein the thickness of the rubber fusing roller is 1-3 mm.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 2, wherein the outer diameter of the fusing roller apparatus is 35-50 mm.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 1, wherein the rubber fusing roller and the heating element are adhered together using a heat-resistant adhesive coated between the rubber fusing roller and the heating element.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 1, wherein both ends of the heating pipe are sealed, and a predetermined amount of a working fluid is contained inside the heating pipe.

8. (NEW) The device of claim 1, wherein the outer protective layer is Teflon.

9. (NEW) A fusing device for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the device comprising:

- a fusing roller having an outer rubber layer;
- a heating pipe disposed in the center of the fusing roller;
- a heating element disposed on the outer surface of the heating pipe is adhered to the rubber layer; and
- a pressing roller which closely adheres paper passing between the pressing roller and the fusing roller to the fusing roller.